



AFGE COUNCIL 222 ENEWS

[HTTP://AFGECOUNCIL222.COM](http://afgecouncil222.com)

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Council takes priority issues to Congress

Participating in the annual AFGE Legislative Action conference, approximately a dozen HUD Union Representatives from offices around the country fanned out over Capitol Hill February 26-March 1. In preparation for the conference, the Local Presidents met via conference call to determine the issues of most importance to our members. We chose to focus on five core issues:

- The Proposed FY 2008 HUD Budget
- Failure to Implement the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)
- Implementation of Congressional Mandates (such as the Family and Medical Leave Act and Telework)
- Implementation of Reasonable Accommodations
- Contracting out at HUD

We spoke with the staff of the House and Senate Appropriations and Authorizing committees, as well as visited more than 30 congressional offices. Staff for the Appropriations Committees were particularly interested in our review of HUD's proposed Salaries & Expenses (S&E) budgets, and asked us to suggest questions that they could use during appropriations hearings. Eight union representatives spent the first night pouring through the S&E budgets to develop questions for use in hearings being held that week in the House. Additional sets of questions have been sent to the Senate recently. To view copies of the Council's five issue papers, as well as AFGE's national issue papers, go to <http://afgecouncil222.com/legislative.html>

April 5, 2007

In This Issue:

New Congress,
New Priorities

Bargaining Buyouts
and eRecruit

National LMR

New England Employees
in Louisiana

Bargaining Update

As a "bargaining council", AFGE Council 222 is primarily responsible for bargaining matters that have broad impact on HUD employees. Matters that have recently or will soon be negotiated include:

- Buyouts for OCIO and FPM Staff
- eRecruit (a management proposal to completely automate the application process, including rating and ranking)
- FPM Protocol changes (a management proposal to give Regional Directors and Field Office Directors more authority)
- Incentive Awards handbook (See Supplement 85)
- Pandemic Flu (See Supplement 82)
- ePerformance (See Supplement 81)

Your input on these proposed changes is invaluable. We notify your Local President promptly of any proposed changes that may impact you, and post all information on our website at <http://afgecouncil222.com/bargaining.html>. Please advise your Local President of any concerns or ideas you may have about proposed changes at HUD.

Annual Labor/Management Relation Meeting to be held in June

The Council is seeking input from our members to determine their priority issues in preparation for the national LMR meeting. At last year's meeting, the Council acknowledged positive changes including expansion of the credit hour program to start an hour earlier and end an hour later, and implementation of the Volunteerism MOU. The Council asked the Deputy Secretary to focus on issues of concern to employees, including lack of training for supervisors and managers, problems with the implementation of telework and the Volunteerism MOU, and concern with contracting out HUD work. The national LMR focuses on broad issues that require headquarters attention. If you and your co-workers have concerns that need national attention, please talk with your Local President soon.

HUD Employees from New England use Volunteerism MOU to spend week with Habitat for Humanity in Louisiana

A group of 10 employees from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, spent a week volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in Houma, Louisiana. The bargaining unit employees were approved to use Administrative Leave under the Volunteerism MOU. To see photos of the team, go to the Council 222 home page: <http://afgecouncil222.com>. To see a copy of the Volunteerism MOU, click on the Admin Leave and Volunteering link on the right hand side of our home page. Volunteer today!